

The institute — a view from the outside

A glimpse of Arabia in Paris

By Mariam Shahin

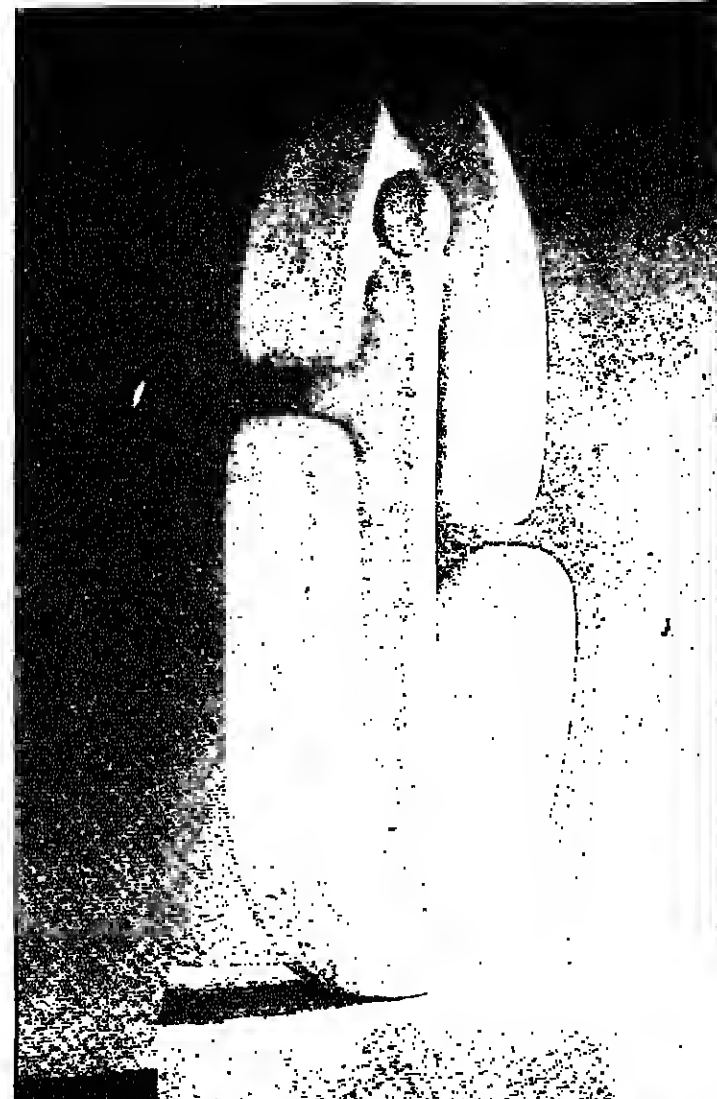
IN the middle of Paris, in an area called the Fifth Arrondissement, stands a seven storey piece of art called the Institut du Monde Arabe. It is an impressive institute which has evidently made a tremendous effort to collect, preserve and put on display countless treasures which originate from the Middle East and in particular from the Arab World. Objects range from ancient patches of tapestry, carved stone and archaeological finds to modern sculptures and paintings. Jordan's

grand and sole contribution to this palace of Middle Eastern treasures is the work of sculptress Muna Saudi.

A visitor can view the valuable of the institute's museum by starting on the seventh floor and working himself/herself down the five storeys devoted to the museum. The first hall of the museum introduces Arab-Islamic civilisation, in a geographic context, in which artifacts from pre-historic Arabia are included. Items on display range from the Arabian peninsula and the Arab Masyaq to the Arab Maghreb.

The second department concentrates on the historic development of Islam, divided into five parts: 1) The era in which the message of Islam was spread; 2) the reign of the first four caliphs; 3) the Umayyads (661-750); 4) the Abbasids (750-1258); and 5) the era of scientific discoveries. Section three goes far beyond the boundaries of the Arab and Middle Eastern world. Artifacts from Islamic Spain, Persia, Turkey, and even India and Italy from the ninth century through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are covered in this section.

The museum has created three "departments" along social and



A sculpture by Jordanian artist Muna Saudi displayed at the Institut du Monde Arab

philosophical lines: 1) the family and the state; 2) the city and the desert; 3) expression and identity.

The last permanent section of the museum displays contemporary art. This includes paintings, sculptures, graphic art, architectural designs as well as various plastic creations.

Another floor is devoted to an impressive library which contains approximately 15,000 volumes, in both French and Arabic. They include encyclopaedias, periodicals, dictionaries, atlases and books whose subjects range from philosophy to statistics. There is a slight imbalance in the degree to which certain subject matters are represented in the library. 2,300 volumes are dedicated to the study of different subjects in Morocco alone for example.

The library is supplemented by a computerised documentation centre that contains a vast amount of press information about politics, culture and empirical as well as social sciences in the Arab World and the Middle East.

The institute also has a section in which cassettes and video films are available for the public. Television programmes from the Arab World can also be seen in the audio-visual section; and the latest Arabic music can be listened to in a special sound proof room. Two hundred documentary films are available for viewing and 18,000 slides can be seen at the different slide projectors on all seven floors.

The gift shop on the ground floor has a rather large collection

of books mostly in French, but also in Arabic, posters and special items such as Yemeni and Egyptian silver jewelry as well as Damascene table cloths and oriental ornaments made by the Maison du Liban.

The institute was sponsored by the French Ministry of Culture, as well as by Saudi, Kuwaiti, Algerian public and private contributions.

As far as artistic and historical artifacts are concerned, Morocco, Iraq and North Yemen made the greatest contributions. Jordan, Lebanon and the Sudan are hardly "represented." A wider range of artifacts from these countries could be put on display without robbing these countries national museums, a source at the institute told the Jordan Times. "Surely Jordan will, Petra, Jerash, Madaba, Shouba and its countless archaeological sites, its almost endless list of contemporary painters and artists can make a few more contributions to the institute," the source said. Arab residents of Paris believe that the institute has so "meticulously preserved, carefully conserved and aesthetically displayed" Middle Eastern artifacts. However, it would be so lonely for Muna Saudi's sculpture to remain the sole representative of Jordan in any category in any section in the Institut du Monde Arab.

The writer, a freelance journalist contributing to the Jordan Times recently returned from a visit to France.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — Aug. 13, 1988

8:30 Mr. Belvedere

9:00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents...

A woman who works in the field of decor thinks of undergoing a cosmetic plastic surgery. She meets a rich man, for whom she furnishes his house and falls in love with him.

9:30 Variety Show

10:20 Feature Film
The Migrants

A high caliber portrait of an earth mother who breathes life into her clan even in the face of her own despair. Tennessee Williams's story about the deprivations endured by migratory workers is effectively adapted by Lanford Wilson. Producer-director Tom Gries pays unfailing attention to detail and Howard deserves special mention as the son who wants out.

Sun. — Aug. 14, 1988

8:30 Check it Out

9:10 Doc. — Footsteps
The Rose Red City

10:20 Magnum

11:10 Fawity Towers

Mon. — Aug. 15, 1988

8:30 Perfect Strangers

9:10 Enemy at the Door

10:20 Feature Film
Angel Dusted

Tue. — Aug. 16, 1988

8:30 Clarence

Travers sets Clarence to building a chicken run to keep his mind on outdoor pursuits despite the compromising sleeping arrangements.

9:10 Campaign

Sarah's plan has worked; all eyes are now on the Prime Minister. She must now ensure that no one notices his mental disability caused by a slight stroke. Her affair with Nick is over, but she is still having problems at home; Paul and Helen are trying to gain custody of Daniel, as everyone awaits the results of the general election, Gordon and Stephen arrange a press launch for their rival agency, unaware of David's plans to discredit them.

10:20 Hunter

11:10 Perfect SPY

Wed. — Aug. 17, 1988

8:30 Three Up Two Down

9:00 Doc. — Space on Earth
Saving Space

Filmed in Britain and France, the programme illustrates various approaches to conservation and finding alternative uses for old buildings.

9:30 Twilight Zone

An old woman tries to restore her youth. She tries to follow certain instructions for such purpose.

10:20 The Fifth Missile
New mini-series

With a powerful cast including Sam Waterston, David Soul, Robert Conrad, Yvette Mimieux and Richard Roundtree, this edge-of-the-seat action mini-series takes you aboard the nuclear submarine, USS Montana, for high adventure and suspense. For the crew of the Montana threatens to turn a training mission — "Operation Fire" — into horrifying reality.

Thur. — Aug. 18, 1988

8:30 Throb

9:10 Remington Steele

10:20 Feature Film
After the Promise

11:10 Three's Company

Starring:
Mark Harmon
Rosamund Dunsmore
Diana Scarwid

After the promise dramatizes the true story of Elmer Jackson (Mark Harmon), who must care for his four sons after the untimely death of his wife during the depression. He is a simple devoted family man and a hard working carpenter. His wife, Florence (Rosamund Dunsmore), refuses medical treatment for religious reasons and dies of complications arising from tuberculosis.

Fri. — Aug. 19, 1988

8:30 Guinness Records

9:10 Menace Unseen

Beautiful call-girl Gail Greville (Melissa Simmonds) reveals she was coerced into working for the same menacing organisation that murdered Robert Shrivving in the second episode of "Menace Unseen".

She gives businessman Duncan Free (Ian Ogilvy) some vital information about his dead colleague when he visits her massage parlour. But Duncan soon has troubles of his own as he digs deeper into the hi-tech world of computer intrigue. His probing causes ripples among the secret bosses who ordered Robert's death and a second victim is found murdered.

10:20 Falcon Crest

11:10 Three's Company



The wedding scene from the film After the Promise, Thursday at 10:20

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

16:30 Programme review
16:35 Children's programmes
16:40 Arabic grammar
17:35 Educational programme
18:00 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:15 Kuwait series
19:10 Family programme
19:15 Programme review
19:20 News in Arabic
20:35 Arabic series
21:30 Local programme
22:30 Arabic play
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 M's Tu Vu
19:00 News in French
19:15 Classical music
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 News in Arabic
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Mr. Belvedere
21:00 Alfred Hitchcock
21:30 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "The Migrants"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 95.0 KHz, SW
Tel: 74111-19

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
08:45 Morning Show Contd.
09:00 Hissville: The Story of Motown
09:15 News Summary
09:30 Pop Session
09:45 News Summary
10:00 Pop Session
10:15 News Bulletin
10:30 Jordan Weekly
10:45 Concert Hour
10:50 News Summary
11:05 Instrumentals/Old favourites
11:10 Special Feature
11:20 Good Old Days
11:30 News Summary
11:45 Top Twenty
11:50 Newsdesk/Music
12:00 The Young Sound
12:10 Discovering Music
12:20 The Musical in Review
12:30 Country Music

BBC WORLD SERVICE

630, 720, 1233 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Here's Humph!
07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News
08:00 World News 08:05 Twenty-Four
Hours: News Summary 08:30 Personal
View 08:45 The World Today 09:00
Newsdesk 09:30 Meridian 10:00 World
News 10:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News
Summary 10:30 From the Weeklies
10:45 Network UK 11:00 World News
11:05 Reflections 11:15 A Jolly Good
Show 12:00 World News 12:05 British
Press Review 12:15 The World Today
12:30 Financial News followed by
Sports Roundup 12:45 Personal View
13:00 News Summary followed by
Here's Humph! 13:15 Letter from
America 13:30 Feature 14:00 World
News 14:05 News about Britain 14:15
Sportsworld 14:30 Meridian 15:00
Radio Newsworld 15:15 Multitrack 3
15:45 Sports Roundup 16:00 World
News 16:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News
Summary 16:30 Network UK 16:45
Sportsworld inc. News Summary 18:00
Radio Newsworld 18:15 Sportsworld
19:00 World News 19:05 News about
Britain 19:15 Sportsworld 20:00 World
News 20:05 Words 20:15 The Ken
Bruce Show 20:45 Sports Roundup
21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 From Concert
followed by News Summary 22:30 Feature
23:00 World News 23:05 Twenty-Four
Hours: News Summary 23:30 Meridian
24:00 News Summary followed by A
Life at the UN 00:15 The Idea of
Europe 01:00 World News 01:05 From
Our Own Correspondent 01:25 A Nature
Notebook 01:40 Reflections 01:45
Sports Roundup 02:00 World News
02:05 Words 02:15 The Tony Myan
Request Show

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565,
11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz

07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00
News 08:10 VOA Morning 09:00 News
09:10 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10
Closeup 10:30 Press Conference, USA
10:40 News 10:50 American View-
points 11:30 Special English News &
Features 20:00 News 20:10 Weekend
21:00 News 21:10 Closeup 21:30 Special
English News & Features 22:00
News 22:10 American Viewpoints

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

24:00 Close Down

22:30 Press Conference, USA 23:00

News 23:10 Music, USA Jazz 23:55
Editorial 23:55 Editorial 24:00 News
01:10 Communications World 01:30
Weekend Magazine

CULTURAL CENTRES & LIBRARIES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
American Centre .. 64371
American Centre library .. 641520
British Council .. 6361476
French Cultural Centre .. 637009
Goethe Institute .. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 64203
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 63049
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195
Hussein Youth City .. 6671816
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664251
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843355
Abdul Hamid Shoman
Foundation .. 672541
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science
Museum" Fun and knowledge for all
ages, plus a small planetarium at the
Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00
a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00
p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes
over 100 years old. Also mosaics from
Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th
centuries). The Roman Theatre, Am-
man. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.,
year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has
an excellent collection of the antiqui-
ties of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel
Hill). Opening hours: 9:00
a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official
holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).
Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a
collection of paintings, ceramics, and
sculptures by contemporary Islamic
artists from most of the Muslim coun-
tries and a collection of paintings by
19th Century orientalist artists. Mun-
tazah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours:
10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.-
6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel.
630128.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings
every first and third Wednesday at the
Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings ev-
ery second and fourth Wednesday at
the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings
every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn,
1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday
at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00
p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Am-
man, Elghil Circle. Tel. 815261.

PRAYER TIMES

04:26 Fajr
05:52 Sunrise
12:40 Dhuhr
16:21 Asr
19:28 Maghreb
20:54 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman
Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel.
637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757, Sunday
English mass (summer time 6 p.m.,
winter time 5 p.m.).
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic),
Jabal Luweibdeh, mass in Italian lan-
guage, meet every Saturday at 5:30
p.m. Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation (Greek
Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541
Anglican Church (Church of the Re-
deemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625385,
chaplain's residence tel. 601359.
Armenian Catholic Church Astral-
feh, Tel. 771731.
Armenian Orthodox Church Astral-
feh, Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Ortho-
dox) Astralfeh, Tel. 771731.
Assuan International Church Inter-
denominational: meets at Southern
Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel.

677534

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church
of the Good Shepherd) Amman, As-
trah Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N.
Smir 811295.
Rainbow Congregation (meets at the
Good Shepherd's Church)
interdenominational-ecumenical En-
glish Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel.
822605, Rev. Veli.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints (Mormons) 815817, 821264

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal
Jordanian (RJ) information Depart-
ment at the Queen Alia International
Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it
should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

05:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:00 Agaba (RJ)
10:00 New Delhi (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:35 Dhahran (RJ)
10:40 Kuwait (RJ)
10:55 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
11:30 New York, Montreal (RJ)
18:20 Athens (RJ)
18:55 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:00 Los Angeles, Miami, Vienna (RJ)
20:45 Tripoli (RJ)
21:30 Moscow (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

02:20 Belgrade (JU)
12:30 Baghdad (IA)
13:20 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
15:45 Tripoli (LN)
16:00 Riyadh (SV)
18:05 Rome (AZ)
19:40 Kuwait (KU)
21:15 Frankfurt, Damascus (LJ)
22:35 Paris, Damascus (AF)
01:00 London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:45 Agaba (RJ)
11:30 Tripoli (RJ)
11:45 Moscow (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Athens (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
13:05 London (RJ)
13:15 Athens (RJ)
20:30 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:50 Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00 Jeddah (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

03:35 Belgrade (JU)
06:20 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
14:00 Baghdad (IA)
14:05 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Doha, Muscat (GF)
16:45 Kuwait (LN)
17:40 Riyadh (SV)
18:55 Damascus (AZ)
20:40 Kuwait (KU)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

The weather will continue to be fair,
with north-westerly moderate winds.
In Agaba, the winds will be northerly
moderate and calm seas.

Min./max. temp.
Amman .. 18 / 30
Agaba .. 24 / 37
Deserts .. 18 / 35
Jordan Valley .. 24 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30, Agaba 37. Humidity readings:
Amman 40 per cent, Agaba 20 per
cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Wa'el Khartabil .. 615035
Dr. Aswar Al Aqar .. 642696
Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Najjar .. 775050
Dr. Mahmoud Jaber .. 896691
Firas pharmacy .. 661912
Ferdows pharmacy .. 778336
Al Asena pharmacy .. 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy .. 623672
Al Salam pharmacy .. 636790
Yacoub pharmacy .. 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy .. 637640

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre .. 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn .. 642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn .. 643412
Jabal Amman Maternity .. 642665
Malhas, J. Amman .. 630440
Palestine, Shmeisani .. 664174
Shmeisani Hospital .. 669131
University Hospital .. 845845
Al-Musader Hospital .. 667279
The Islamic, Abdali .. 664167
Al-Ahli, Abdali .. 664168
Italian, Al-Muhajir .. 777103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh .. 775111/26
Army, Marfa .. 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital .. 6224050
Amal Hospital .. 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital .. (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital .. (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital .. (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital .. (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital .. (02)272775
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital .. (02)271000
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital .. (03)314111

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate .. 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue .. 630341
Civil Defence Emergency .. 199
Rescue Police .. 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade .. 198, 891228

GENERAL

Ministry of Information .. 641467
Ministry of the Interior .. 663111
Ministry of Tourism .. 642311
Driving Licences Dept. .. 892285
Foreigners and Frontiers Dept. .. 892408
Meteorological Dept. .. 892408
Public Security Headquarters .. 630321
Telecommunications Corporation .. 638301

Arab leaders congratulate King

AMMAN (Petra) — On the 36th anniversary of his accession to the throne, His Majesty King Hussein Friday continued to receive congratulatory cables. Among the cables arriving Friday were those sent by King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Bahraini Emir Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent Sheikh Hamad Ibn Isa Al Khalifah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah, Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifah Ibn Salman Al Khalifah, member of the UAE supreme council and ruler of Al Fujairah Sheikh Hamad Ibn Mohammad Al Sharqi and Organisation of Islamic Conference Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONDOLENCES: His Majesty King Hussein delegated Mohammad Hussein Al Shobaki, the governor of Karak, to convey his condolences to the Majali family on the death of Atallah Al Majali, member of the Court of Cession.

HINDAWI RETURNS: Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi Friday returned to Amman at the conclusion of a several-day private visit to the United States.

SOMALI AIDE LEAVES: Somali Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Ali Hamed left Amman Friday at the end of a three-day visit during which he delivered a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Somali President Siad Barre. The minister was seen off at the airport by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Fayez Tarawneh and other officials from the Foreign Ministry. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the message dealt with means to boost bilateral relations and exchange of views about current Arab issues.

TAIBEH ELECTIONS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jaher has appointed the district governor of Taibeh in the Irbid Governorate as chairman of the municipal elections committee in the town. The minister announced that Nov. 19 will be the date for the local elections.

ZARQA MUNICIPALITY PROJECTS: Zarqa Municipality has embarked on building a cultural hall and Al Hashemiyeh multipurpose complex at the cost of JD 98,000. A municipality spokesman said that JD 60,000 have been allocated for reorganising the King Talal Street in the heart of Zarqa. These projects he said will be completed in five months.

2 killed, 3 injured in different incidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 15-year-old girl from Madaba district was admitted to hospital suffering from wounds sustained when a 16-year-old boy fired a stray bullet from a handgun and a child aged six was admitted to another hospital in Ghor Al Safi for treatment of wounds caused by a stray bullet fired by her sister, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The paper also reported the death of Michael Habib, a 15-year-old Jordanian in a road accident involving two vehicles in Amman.

The report said that the accident was between an Iraqi fuel tanker truck and a car with Saudi licence plate whose driver was injured in the accident.

The paper reported the death of a four-year-old boy from Al-Qast, in the Karak region, after being run over by a bus near Karak, and also the attempted suicide of a man from Qweira who swallowed 37 pills of an unspecified medicine.

The report said the 24-year-old man, identified as A.M.H., was said to have swallowed the pills after family disputes.

The man's condition was described as stable.

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Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday inspects facilities and services of a joint medical complex at Disi in Southern Jordan (Petra photo)

Queen Noor inaugurates joint medical complex in Disi

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday inaugurated a joint medical complex at the town of Disi within the Qweira district of Aqaba and inspected facilities and services offered to the local inhabitants.

The complex serves some 5,000 residents from Disi and hadia areas in southern Jordan, and offers, emergency, mother and child care, laboratory and general medical services, according to Health Ministry officials present at the inauguration ceremony.

The Queen toured the different sections and was briefed on their work by the local doctors and officials.

At the outset of the ceremony Aqaba Region Authority Director Bassam Qaqish delivered a speech paying tribute to the Queen's concern over the health and living conditions of citizens.

He also praised the Health Ministry for its relentless efforts to provide primary health care services to the Jordanian citizens in urban, rural and hadia regions.

Another speaker was the district governor of Qweira, who outlined development projects in health, agriculture, social services and other spheres which, he said, have been promoted by concerned government authorities over the years.

The district governor also outlined tourism projects at Wadi Rum, telecommunications networks, road, electricity and water projects being implemented in his area.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh was among the audience attending the opening ceremony.

The Queen toured the different sections and was briefed on their work by the local doctors and officials.

At the outset of the ceremony Aqaba Region Authority Director Bassam Qaqish delivered a speech paying tribute to the Queen's concern over the health and living conditions of citizens.

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National Aid Fund adds 237 needy families on list

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) last month added 237 needy families to a list of those receiving monthly financial assistance, receiving a total off JD 4,672 a month according to NAF's Director General Khalil Al Faouri.

Faouri said in a statement released by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Friday that NAF teams added a total of 1,118 families to the fund's list of needy people over the past seven years, entitling them to monthly assistance which according to Faouri totalled JD 21,492 between January and July of 1988.

The NAF director told Petra that the new additions will be joining 8,589 needy families already on the list, receiving a total monthly assistance of JD 180,445.

Some families can receive up to JD 40 a month in accordance with their condition, according to Faouri.

Over the past seven months the NAF allocated a one-time lump sum emergency assistance for 51 needy families totalling JD 2,645, the director noted.

He said in such emergency cases, the fund pays sums as high as JD 100 for a family in need and this is paid only once a year.

Faouri said apart from direct financial assistance the NAF has allocations for financing vocational training projects for the rehabilitation of the bread winners of needy families, enabling them to earn their own living.

He said last month JD 1,500 were spent on such projects in which 58 people were offered training raising to 102,130 the total sum spent on such projects by the NAF over the past seven months.

Faouri noted that up to JD 3,000 in loans could be offered to a needy family to start its own means of making a living and only requires that 35 per cent of the loan should be repaid to the NAF over easy no-interest installments.

He said that the NAF helps needy families with handicapped persons by providing hearing aids and other essential material.

The NAF, which was established in 1986, draws its resources from the government and donations by individuals, voluntary organisation and societies.

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Next U.S. president must deal with PLO — Neumann

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The next U.S. president must deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the pursuit of Middle East peace and conditions exist for this to occur, a former U.S. ambassador and Reagan administration adviser said Thursday.

Robert Neumann, who directed the State Department transition team when President Reagan took office in 1981, sharply criticised current U.S. policy and warned that "if we allow, as the present administration has done, events to drift, the situation is certain to get worse."

"Whether the United States likes it or not, there is no substitute for the PLO," he said. He and other scholars at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) released several new analyses in series designed to "infuse a strategic perspective" into the election debate on the U.S. international role.

They called for vigorous leadership by Reagan's successor and drastic shifts in many aspects of U.S. foreign policy.

Ooe report by CSIS analysts Debra van Opsal and Andrew Goldberg concluded U.S. security was now affected far more by regional turbulence and unconventional threats than by Soviet "expansionism."

Murphy ends visit

U.S. envoy Richard Murphy ended a Middle East swing Thursday saying his mission to

the region had been constructive. But Murphy's planned meeting to Egypt with Palestinian leaders was called off because two members of the delegation had close links to the PLO.

Murphy, the assistant secretary of state responsible for Middle East affairs, told reporters at Cairo airport before flying to Paris: "My trip was very constructive."

But he did not elaborate on the positive elements of his mission to Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Jordan and Egypt.

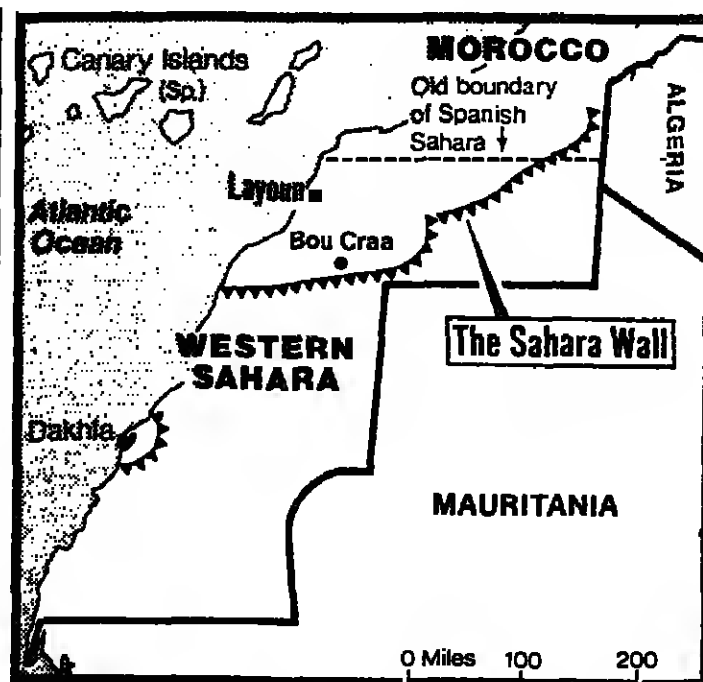
He said his discussions with Egyptian leaders included regional issues and the situation in the Gulf following an Iran-Iraq ceasefire accord.

Diplomatic sources said Murphy was also likely to stop in London on his way back to the United States.

Murphy said he would submit a report to President Reagan on his wide-ranging talks with regional leaders.

The U.S. State Department said Wednesday it regretted Murphy's meeting with prominent Palestinians fell through.

Washington, which has promised Israel it would not negotiate with the PLO, was willing for its officials to meet four Palestinians who had previously held talks with Secretary of State George Shultz, a leading Palestinian said.



Iran, Iraq reportedly enter deal over Kurds

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Iran and Iraq have each agreed to halt military support for Kurdish rebels fighting the other's government, according to Kurdish sources in Turkey.

Kurdish guerrillas who took refuge in Turkey during heavy fighting in northern Iraq this week said Tehran had cut supplies of arms and ammunition since early this month.

Iran still offered hospital facilities and allowed the guerrillas to cross the border but only unarmed, members of a 15-strong group said at the Turkish village of Derick.

Iraqi Kurdish fighters, led by Massoud Barzani, controlled a broad swathe of northern Iraq during the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq. The rebels, backed by Iran, tied down large numbers of Iraqi troops.

Other Kurdish sources said Iran, which accepted a U.N. peace resolution last month, had cut support for Barzani in return for Iraq's promise to drop its backing for Iranian Kurdish rebels.

Iraq had also pledged to end support for the forces of the Iranian Mujahideen-e-Khalq opposition group, the sources said.

They said Barzani's nephew, Nechir Barzani, was seeking urgent talks with the Turkish authorities about Kurdish rights of passage through Turkey, and refuge in the country.

But Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu said Turkey had not been contacted by either Barzani or Jalal Talabani, another Iraqi Kurdish rebel leader.

Battles have raged since July 30 in parts of northern Iraq and some 400 Kurds have taken refuge in Turkey at various times since then, Turkish security sources said.

A variety of Kurdish tribes, totalling between 10 and 14 million people, occupy a mountainous area of nearly 300,000 square kilometres covering parts of Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey.

Turkish security forces Wednesday killed three guerrillas from the banned Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), a group fighting for autonomy for Turkey's eight million Kurds.

For Mubarak, having relations with Israel causes perpetual problems in ties with Arab states and sparks protests from Egyptian leftists and hardliners. Two Israeli officials have been shot dead in Cairo in the past three years.

Officials in Cairo say Egypt finds it hard to deal with Israel's coalition government on Middle East peace because deals struck with one partner are blocked by the other.

They prefer Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, currently foreign minister, but say he cannot make his views prevail in coalition politics with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline Likud bloc.

Ties are aggravated by a simmering dispute over the Israeli-held Sinai border beach of Tabu, due to be resolved by arbitration Sept. 28 if a compromise is not negotiated before then.

Few incidents are reported along the long Sinai desert border, but Israel is worried about periodic Palestinian guerrilla crossings into Israel. Officials say there have been six incursions in the past year.

Things could be 'worse'

In recent interviews with Reuters, two men who know the Egypt-Israel relationship in-

W. Sahara war may end soon

By Stephen Hughes
Reuter

RABAT — The war in the Western Sahara between Morocco and Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas could be over by Sept. 1 if both sides agree to accept the new peace proposals handed them Thursday by United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The secretary-general asked for a response by that date to the proposals which involve a ceasefire and a referendum to determine the future of the former Spanish colony.

The conflict has lasted more than 12 years but it has always been a small-scale war with few independent witnesses, foreign military attaches say.

"It has been more a war of words than a shooting war," said a veteran Western diplomat. He said Polisario attacks were invariably timed to coincide with political events related to the conflict.

"It's been a war we've heard a lot about but have never actually seen," he added, noting that the only independent witnesses have been journalists escorted by guerrillas to watch shells being lobbed over the Moroccan lines.

Polisario war communiques, published in Algeria where the guerrillas have their main bases, add up to over 50,000 casualties among Morocco's royal armed forces since 1976.

Polisario has also reported taking about 2,000 Moroccan prisoners but no exact count has ever been published.

Hundreds of Polisario communiques show there were apparently more soldiers killed than wounded. But one military analyst said in "any conventional war the ratio is usually five wounded for one killed."

In contrast Moroccan army headquarters has issued only a few dozen communiques, admit-

ting to fewer than 5,000 casualties and claiming to have knocked out as many guerrillas.

Polisario has never revealed its casualties nor given any figures for the strength of its "People's National Liberation Army" which has vowed to wage "a war of attrition" to bring Morocco to its knees.

Polisario guerrillas have boasted they will liberate the Sahara, just as the Algerians defeated France and the United States, with the war cry: "All the fatherland or martyrdom."

"The flow in that is neither France nor the United States had any business in those countries, whereas we are fighting in our own country," a Moroccan field officer told Reuters.

Estimates of Polisario strength range from 3,500 to 7,000 men equipped with Soviet-made tanks, personnel carriers and anti-aircraft missiles, plus British and Japanese four-wheel drive vehicles.

This small force has pinned down about 80,000 Moroccan troops equipped with French and American weapons, including advanced aircraft, deployed along a 1,500-kilometre line of defences snaking across the desert close to the Algerian and Mauritania borders.

The two-metre high ridge of sand and rock studded with electronic sensors, built in stages since 1981, acts as a trip wire to give the defenders forewarning of

guerrilla attacks. Before the wall was built, Morocco suffered its heaviest losses when guerrillas concentrated attacks on isolated outposts and wiped out the garrisons.

The Polisario's greatest victory was to force Mauritania to withdraw from the southern part of the territory ceded to it by an accord signed in Madrid in November 1975.

Twice the guerrillas attacked the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott whose small and poorly equipped army was unable to police the country's vast desert. Mauritania's share of the desert was annexed by Rabat.

Completion of the wall in April 1987 gave Morocco control of more than two-thirds of the disputed territory, including all the towns, phosphate mines and the entire Atlantic coast.

The last major Moroccan-Polisario battles were in November 1987 just before a United Nations mission arrived to find out how a referendum could be held to settle the area's future.

AP adds: U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Thursday he hopes an independence referendum can be held for the territory this year.

The U.N. chief urged Morocco and the Polisario movement to respond to his detailed proposal by Sept. 1.

Perez de Cuellar commented shortly after presenting his plans for a ceasefire and subsequent referendum to representatives of Morocco and Polisario, as well as to the Organisation of African Unity, Algeria and Mauritania.

Details of the proposals are being kept confidential. But Perez de Cuellar said the proposals were the result of extensive discussions among the parties, so "they won't be extremely surprised" by his suggestions.

22 remain missing after Nile boat mishap

CAIRO (AP) — Frogmen Friday fished out the body of a seventh Italian tourist from the Nile, two days after the cruiser Nubia sank in southern Egypt during a storm, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

Nine Italian nationals and 13 Egyptians who were on the boat are still missing and presumed dead.

MENA quoted police General Ibrahim Bassiouny, head of security of Aswan, as saying that the rescue teams were having difficulty searching the upside-down, almost completely submerged vessel for the missing persons because of strong water currents in the area.

He said they would attempt to drag the vessel away from the currents and try to refloat it.

The Nubia capsized and sank during a sudden storm Wednesday afternoon near Edfu. Edfu is half way between the famous tourist resorts of Luxor, 720 kilometres, and Aswan, 960 kilometres south of Cairo.

It was carrying 51 Italians and an Egyptian crew of 45. Thirty-five Italians and 27 Egyptians were rescued, suffering from minor wounds and shock. Search groups have found the bodies of seven Italians and five Egyptians, leaving nine Italians and 13 Egyptians missing, and presumed dead by police.

Egypt hopes for return of PoWs from Iran

BAHRAIN (R) — Egypt has asked the United Nations and Iraq to negotiate the release of several thousand Egyptians held by Iran as prisoners of war, Arab diplomats said Friday.

"This is a vital issue (for Egypt) which we always bring up," a senior Egyptian official in the region told Reuters.

He said Cairo had officially asked Baghdad, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the International Committee of Red Cross to raise the issue at peace talks between Iraq and Iran.

The talks on ending the eight-year war are due to start in Geneva Aug. 25, five days after a ceasefire takes effect.

"The United Nations ceasefire Resolution 598 includes a section on exchanging prisoners of war and these men are prisoners just like the Iraqis," the Egyptian official said.

Egypt says Iran holds a few thousand Egyptian prisoners, but no official figure is available.

In Cairo, the semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper quoted an Iranian official at the United Nations as saying Tehran had told Perez de Cuellar that Tehran was willing to facilitate the handover of the Egyptians.

Egypt has no diplomatic ties with Iran, which it has accused of financing anti-government extremist groups. It has also said that Tehran has not responded to Cairo's requests for information on the Egyptian prisoners.

About 1.5 million Egyptians work in Iraq and several thousand of them volunteered to fight on Baghdad's side in the war against Iran.

Egyptian Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala has repeatedly said that all Egyptians fighting for Iraq were volunteers and some had taken Iraqi citizenship.

U.S. navy drops plan to replace Vincennes in Gulf

BAHRAIN (AP) — The U.S. navy has decided against dispatching another of its billion-dollar "Aegis" missile cruisers to the Gulf region to replace the USS Vincennes, military sources said Friday.

The sources, speaking on condition they not be identified, said the scheduled assignment of the USS Mobile Bay, a sister ship of the Vincennes, had been "postponed until further notice."

The Mobile Bay was scheduled to depart Friday from Mayport, Florida, to join the navy's joint task force Middle East, which includes 27 warships in the Gulf and the Arabian Sea.

Although the sources declined to be specific, they indicated the decision was related to an expected cutback in the size of the U.S. force after a ceasefire between Iraq and Iran goes into effect Aug. 20.

The sources said the Vincennes, which mistakenly shot down an Iranian civilian jetliner July 3, killing all 290 aboard, is now expected to remain on duty in the region until early September, by which time it should be clear whether the United Nations-

sponsored ceasefire would hold. One officer, also asking not to be identified, said an end to the eight-year-old conflict would "sharply reduce any need" for the navy to send another of its most sophisticated and controversial anti-aircraft defence warships to the region.

The Vincennes had been expected to leave for its home port in San Diego, California, in the next two weeks, in keeping with a policy under which ships serve about three months on duty with the joint task force Middle East.

The sources said that practice is "flexible" and refused to say why the Vincennes, which arrived in the region May 22, was being kept in the area longer than usual.

U.S. Defence Secretary Frank C. Carlucci reiterated this week that the present force of 27 warships, including 18 in the Gulf, would be sharply cut if the ceasefire remained in effect for a "prudent" period.

An official report on the July 3 downing of the Iranair A-300 Airbus by the Vincennes is expected to be released later this month.

Swedish police raid home of suspect in Greek ship attack

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Swedish security police have raided the home of an Arab alleged to have planned the deadly attack last month on a Greek cruise ship, the Aftonbladet newspaper reported Thursday.

Police spokesman Ingvar Eriksson confirmed the raid and said investigators also found four Kalashnikov assault rifles among a cache of weapons hidden in a forest a few kilometres from the home of the Arab.

Police believe the Arab was the operations chief of the Abu Nidal group, the paper said. Eriksson said he was believed to be one of nine people killed in the July 11 assault on the "City of Poros."

Eriksson identified the man as Samir Mohammad Kadar and said he was born in Lebanon in 1948.

Kadar, who described himself as an international businessman, lived in a Stockholm suburb since 1986 under the name of his Finnish-born wife. The name is barred from publication under Swedish press laws, he said.

On the cruise ship, in which more than 80 also were wounded. Police raided his apartment reportedly after a flight ticket to Scandinavia was found in a Greek hotel room.

Kadar left Stockholm at the beginning of June and flew via Copenhagen, Denmark to Athens, under the name of Hejab Abdalla, the paper said.

Eriksson declined to discuss evidence found in the apartment, saying police were still investigating the seized documents.

The newspaper said some documents linked Kadar to the hijacking of a Pan Am airliner to Karachi in 1986 and other operations claimed by the Abu Nidal organisation. Sixteen people were killed in a rescue operation by Pakistani authorities.

Last month a spokesman for Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) denied responsibility for the attack on the City of Poros and added that Kadar had died in 1985.

But the Swedish police spokesman said they suspected Kadar had been living in Stockholm since 1986, slipping into the coun-

try at a time when police were fully occupied with trying to solve the murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme.

Greek police have issued an international appeal for help in tracking two other suspects in connection with the City of Poros attack — Zayed Hussein Ahmad Ali, 36, and Reyad Samir Al Ahmad, 40, both believed to belong to the Abu Nidal group.

Aftonbladet quoted police sources as saying several Abu Nidal members were suspected to be living in Sweden.

Kadar's wife was completely ignorant of her husband's double life, Aftonbladet quoted the sources as saying.

The newspaper quoted police as accusing Kadar of being responsible for planning the 1985 attack on Rome's international airport when gunmen killed 13 people in the terminal building. He is also believed to have been involved in organising a bomb attack on an Italian restaurant three months earlier, when 40 people were injured, Aftonbladet quoted police as saying.

Police declined comment.

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Tunisia plans for major currency liberalisation

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia plans to scrap foreign exchange controls and turn the dinar into a fully-convertible currency by the mid-1990s, central bank governor Ismail Khelil has said.

Khelil, in an interview with Reuters, spelled out plans for the second stage of a far-reaching reform programme which will leave Tunisia with one of the most liberal economies in the Arab World.

"We are really in the process of changing the whole money market right now and we intend to create a foreign exchange market. This is our next step," he said.

Khelil said the government of President Zine Al Abidine 11n Ali aimed to liberalise the economy by 1991 and would then focus on the currency.

A number of steps have been taken to prepare domestic banks for the challenge, he said.

Under recent reforms many Tunisians can now hold hard currency accounts, there have been changes in domestic interest rates to increase inter-bank competition, and the central bank has been overhauled and given more independence.

"We want banks to be familiar dealing with foreign exchange. We are creating little by little a foreign exchange market within the country. This is a step because our aim is to make the

dinar a convertible currency," he said.

Setting out a step-by-step approach to reform, Khelil has maintained the abolition of currency restrictions was essential to attract foreign investors.

"It is my conviction that this (restrictions) has been one of the more serious handicaps for attracting capital," he said.

"On the psychological level when you say to an investor this is a free country and you can bring in whatever you want and then take it out again, it really makes a big difference," he noted.

But he cautioned it was important to liberalise the economy, including the privatisation of at least 100 large state enterprises, before focusing on the currency reforms.

"The government has started privatisation, the pricing policy will have been liberalised, imports will have been mostly liberalised... after all that, then the liberalisation of the currency will be that much easier," he said.

Khelil said the new measures would form the core-piece of a new five-year plan starting in 1992, adding:

"We use the current plan to

restructure the economy, to improve efficiency and to liberalise and after that we start dealing with the currency."

Khelil had no doubts Tunisia's economy which grew by 5.8 per cent in 1987 — well ahead of predictions and the highest growth in North Africa — would be strong enough to meet the challenge of overseas competition.

"From the first results, we believe we are really on the good path," he said.

He said the country's foreign reserves, which stood at \$565 million on Aug. 1, were at the highest level for some 30 years as a result of increases in exports, tourism receipts and remittances from workers abroad.

More significantly, he said investment in export-oriented industry had shown a big increase. Businessmen were now confident after the uncertainty that marked the final years to power of former president Habib Bourguiba.

"There is a very good political and economic climate and the business climate is very pleased to see that situation," Khelil said.

Khelil said Tunisia, which turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in 1986 after dwindling oil reserves left it with a severe cash shortage, had met all IMF targets and there were no plans for any more loans.

Customs revenue increases

AMMAN (J.T.) — The customs authorities in Jordan collected JD 82,873,588 in duty on imported products in the first half of 1988, registering JD 5 million increase over the same period of 1987, according to Al Ra'i Arabic newspaper.

The paper said that the Customs Department considered this increase as an indication of a new upsurge in the country's economic activity.

Government to issue new policies on investments

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will shortly announce a set of resolutions and decisions designed to ensure better investment facilities and to offer more incentives for investors in economic, tourism, agricultural and industrial sectors. Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabbaa announced Thursday.

He said that at the same time, the government will do its best to find new markets for national products especially through agreements concluded with other Arab countries.

The end of the Gulf war will no doubt open for Jordan the opportunity of selling products to the Iraqi market and therefore concerted efforts on the part of all sectors is now required if this process is to achieve success, the minister said at a reception held at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade will remain committed to all declared measures intended to simplify routine and cut down on formalities in trade deals, and will examine existing laws and regulations and previous instructions with a view to updating them whenever this is beneficial for the national interest, Tabbaa noted.

Tabbaa, who is former president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) said that the federation will continue to contribute towards stimulating the national economy and the development process.

Addressing the meeting also was FJCC President Mohammad Asfour who urged the public and private sectors to cooperate for the development of the national economy.

Indian pilots flock to join foreign airlines

BOMBAY (R) — More than a quarter of the pilots working for India's flag carriers, Air India and Indian Airlines, have applied for better-paid jobs with three foreign airlines, the Indian pilots' guild said Thursday.

"Give a chance, everyone would like to quit," said guild vice-president Shankar Roy in an interview.

Out of 1,300 pilots employed by the two Indian airlines, 350 have applied for advertised jobs with Gulf Air, Singapore Airlines and Emirates Airlines, he said.

Roy said there was a big shortage of senior pilots and Gulf Air, for instance, was offering up to 95,000 rupees (\$6,800) a month to pilots.

That compares with the 6,000 rupees (\$430) a month, after taxes but before special allowances, of Air India pilots, Roy

said. A spokesman for Indian Airlines, the country's main domestic carrier, said in New Delhi that he knew some pilots had applied for jobs elsewhere but could not confirm the number.

There was no real concern about the applications and flights would not be affected even if some of the pilots found jobs with other airlines.

Roy said his guild had information that the Indian government had asked the Singapore authorities not to consider Indian pilots for any jobs.

"It is very unethical," he said. The Indian Airlines spokesman said he was not aware of any such government request.

Roy said the three foreign airlines had advertised jobs during the past year. Gulf Air needed 150 pilots and Singapore Airlines more than 200.

Gulf International Bank announces profit increase

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Gulf International Bank (GIB) wholly and equally owned by seven Gulf governments, announced Thursday that it achieved an after-tax profit of \$25.4 million for the first six months of this year.

GIB, an international merchant and commercial bank, said in a press statement the profit presented an increase of 14.3 per cent over the unaudited interim results for the comparable 1987 period.

Abdullah Saif, chairman of the bank's board of directors said that the half-year results reflect an improvement in earnings "through sustained penetration of trade finance markets and a strong performance from treasury operations."

After a deduction for loan loss provisions, interest and fees on loans amounted to \$179.5 million, an 11.8 per cent increase on the prior period, while net interest, fees, and other operating income rose by 7.5 per cent to \$52.6 million, the statement said.

Strict budgetary controls contributed to a reduction in total expenses of just over one per cent

compared to the previous period, it said.

The statement was issued after the results were reviewed by the bank's board of directors meeting at the GIB headquarters in this Gulf island state.

GIB has branches in London, New York and Singapore, with representative offices in Tokyo and Frankfurt. It was established in 1975 with authorised capital of \$265 million by the governments of Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Until June 30 this year, the total assets were \$8.8 billion and shareholders' equity amounted to \$594 million.

The bank's capital resources will be strengthened further by a capital increase of \$111.4 million to be issued, subscribed and paid in before the end of the year, the statement added.

GIB is the second largest offshore banking unit in Bahrain, the central Gulf state that developed into a major offshore banking centre in the oil price heyday of the mid-1970s. The Gulf region sits on about a third of the world's proven oil reserves.

Arab Banking Corporation reports \$68m net profit

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — The Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) has announced an operating profit of \$104 million for the first half of 1988.

The corporation said that after allowing for general and specific loan loss provisions of \$28 million, and minority interests of \$8 million, the net pre-tax profit of the corporation was \$68 million as at the end of June.

According to the statement, total specific and general loan

loss provisions amounted \$527 million compared with a total of \$215 million at the same time last year.

The group's total assets rose from \$15.48 billion in June 1987 to \$17.28 billion in June 1988 — an increase of 12 per cent. Total assets at the end of 1987 were \$17.54 billion.

The corporation continues to provide against debts for the less developed countries according to its own internal guidelines, an official statement said.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

| Wednesday rates | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| Local sell/buy rates in Jds | | | | | |
| Belgian franc (for 10) | 92.9 | 93.8 | Saudi riyal | 100.0 | 101.0 |
| Dutch guilder | 172.3 | 174.0 | Syrian lira (for JD 1) | 100.0 | 102.0 |
| French franc | 27.7 | 28.3 | Lebanese lira (for JD 1) | 880.0 | 900.0 |
| Italian lira (for 100) | 26.4 | 26.7 | Iraqi dinar | 1320.0 | 1340.0 |
| Japanese yen (for 100) | 276.5 | 279.3 | Kuwaiti dinar | 160.0 | 165.0 |
| Swedish crown | 57.0 | 57.6 | Egyptian pound | 103.0 | 104.0 |
| Swiss franc | 232.4 | 234.8 | Qatari riyal | 102.0 | 103.0 |
| U.K. sterling pound | 628.6 | 635.9 | UAE dirham | 980.0 | 990.0 |
| U.S. dollar | 373.2 | 377.2 | Omani riyal | 990.0 | 1000.0 |
| Deutsche mark | 194.5 | 196.4 | Bahraini dinar | 990.0 | 1000.0 |

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|---|--------|
| Ministry of Industry and Trade | 663191 | Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation | 603507 |
| Ministry of Supply | 663221 | Free Zones Corporation | 642001 |
| Ministry of Finance | 664406 | Amman Financial Market | 660170 |
| Ministry of Planning | 664406 | Amman Chamber of Commerce | 666151 |
| Ministry of Labour | 663186 | Amman Chamber of Industry | 664747 |
| Ministry of Communications | 663991 | Association of Banks in Jordan | 662258 |
| Ministry of Agriculture | 660151 | Jordan Association of Insurance Companies | 647370 |
| Income Tax Department | 630301 | General Statistics Department | 846171 |
| Central Bank of Jordan | 672181 | Jordanian Businessmen Association | 680663 |
| Amman Customs Department | 643000 | | |
| Social Security Corporation | 721194 | | |
| Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation | 721194 | | |

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|--|
| One Sterling | 1.7110/20 | U.S. dollar | |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.2205/15 | Canadian dollar | |
| | 1.8810/20 | Deutsche marks | |
| | 2.1225/35 | Dutch guilders | |
| | 1.5755/65 | Swiss francs | |
| | 39.40/43 | Belgian francs | |
| | 6.3770/3820 | French francs | |
| | 1395/1396 | Italian lire | |
| | 133.15/25 | Japanese yen | |
| | 6.4590/4640 | Swedish crowns | |
| | 6.8700/50 | Norwegian crowns | |
| | 7.2010/60 | Danish crowns | |
| One ounce of gold | 428.60/429.10 | U.S. dollars | |

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The share market closed higher for the first time in two days but profit-taking ahead of the weekend and nervousness about Wall Street's performance dragged prices from their highs. The All Ordinaries index was up 6.4 at 1,623.2.

TOKYO — Share prices closed slightly higher but failed to hold on to morning peaks as investors took a wait-and-see attitude. The Nikkei index rose 48.53 to 27,834.51.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed steady on light bargain-bunting by overseas fund managers with trading overshadowed by rumours of an imminent increase in local interest rates. The Hang Seng index was up 5.65 to 2,600.93.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed slightly lower due to lack of follow-through buying support and profit-taking. The Straits Times Industrial index fell 3.22 to 1,132.10.

BOMBAY — Share prices dropped further on nervous selling when trading resumed after a day's disruption. Operators feared the exchange authorities would take drastic steps to curb speculation. Tata Steel fell 6.25 rupees to 807.5.

FRANKFURT — Shares firmed slightly in quiet business in what was seen as a technical adjustment before the weekend rather than fundamental strength. The Dax index rose 5.42 to 1,173.56.

ZURICH — After two days of declines the market closed little changed, as Wall Street firmed Thursday night. Towards the close the All Share Swiss index was up 1.9 at 890.4.

PARIS — Prices closed slightly up but below the day's highs in moderate trading ahead of the long assumption any weekend.

LONDON — Shares were mostly firm in late-afternoon business, with a modest spell of buying for the new account helping to support prices. At 1442 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up seven at 1,842.2.

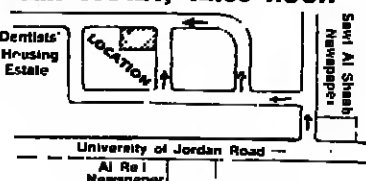
NEW YORK — Stocks steadied at lower levels in mid-morning, after falling in line with the bond market on a higher than expected "core inflation" rate in the U.S. producer price index report. The Dow was down 11 at 2,028.

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Depressed oil prices hit Shell, B.P. results

LONDON (R) — Depressed crude oil prices in the first half of 1988 cut into results from oil giants Royal Dutch/Shell Group and British Petroleum, the companies said Thursday.

Anglo-Dutch Royal Dutch/Shell said second quarter historic net income — calculated by valuing oil stocks on the basis of what they cost to acquire —

dropped to \$633 million (\$1.07 billion) from \$656 million (\$1.11 billion). This was sharply lower than industry analysts had forecast.

British Petroleum Plc. (B.P.) reported second quarter historic net profits of \$357 million (\$606 million) against \$317 million (\$538 million) in the same period last year.

But half year profits fell to \$620 million (\$1.05 billion) against \$775 million (\$1.31 billion) in the first half of 1987.

Shell said the outlook for oil and gas prices for the rest of 1988 remained volatile and dependent on events in the Gulf.

The new results put Shell's half-year historic net income at \$1.46 billion (\$2.48 billion) against \$1.35 billion (\$2.29 billion) in the same period of last year.

The markets had expected

second quarter results of between \$650 and \$850 million (\$1.1 and \$1.44 billion).

Oil and gas exploration and production earnings were particularly hard hit by the drop in crude prices and lower gas sales. These earnings were virtually halved in the second quarter to \$194 million (\$329 million) from \$385 million (\$654 million) in second quarter 1987.

Sterling's strength against the dollar also adversely affected results, the company said.

But these shortfalls were bolstered by improved profits from refining, marketing and chemicals sectors, Shell said.

Earnings on a basis of current replacement cost of stocks, which excludes inventory holding gains and losses, rose five per cent to \$657 million (\$1.11 billion).

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Sein Lwin quits amid revolt

BANGKOK (Agencies) — Burmese leader Sein Lwin has resigned as chairman of the Socialist ruling party and state president after five straight days of nationwide violent demonstrations demanding his removal, the state radio said Friday.

No successor was named for Sein Lwin, but the radio said a special meeting of both the central committee of the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) and the People's Assembly has been called.

The broadcast said the 92nd meeting of the party's central committee accepted Sein Lwin's resignation as the party chairman, by far the most powerful political position in the country. It said the council of state accepted his resignation as president of the republic and from membership of the People's Assembly.

The broadcast gave no reason for the resignation.

The 64-year-old former brigadier took over chairmanship of

the BSPP from veteran leader Ne Win July 26.

Official reports say 98 people have died since Sunday but diplomats in Rangoon estimate that between 500 to 1,500 may have been killed in the bloody riots that swept Rangoon and all major towns in the country of 38 million people.

Of the death toll a diplomat said: "There were perhaps 300 killed in Rangoon and 300 in Mandalay and nearby Sagaing."

Official reports from Sagaing Thursday said 31 people were killed when a crowd of 5,000 people attacked a police station and police opened fire.

The latest killings reported by Rangoon radio were at Sitwe Port, the second biggest city in

Arakan state on the Indian Ocean, where it said three members of the security forces were beaten to death.

Diplomats contacted from Bangkok said there were increasing, though unconfirmed, reports of soldiers defecting and joining the demonstrations, but they said in the tumult of the conflict such reports should be treated with caution.

They also reported widespread rumours that ethnic Karen guerrillas, one of a dozen rebel groups fighting in eastern Burma, had moved into Pa-An, capital Karen state.

This would be the first sign that the guerrillas were preparing to exploit the unrest, hitting back after retreating before army campaigns in recent years.

The radio denied reports based on accounts by Thai officials that the southernmost towns of Kowsong had been taken over by demonstrators.

"There were some disturb-

ances in Kowsong yesterday (Thursday) but the town remains calm due to systematic control by the authorities concerned," the radio said.

Thai officials at Ranong, a 20-minute ferry ride from the Burmese town across the Pakchan River, said demonstrators had seized the police station, the customs office, the town hall and the post office.

A Western diplomat Thursday said demonstrators roamed about the town freely, with the army taking no action.

A Western diplomat said Thursday it was difficult to obtain a precise casualty toll because soldiers and protesters were fighting a "battle for the bodies."

"When someone is killed (the protesters) try to get it, so they can display the bodies, and the government tries to get it to cremate it" to erase any evidence of deaths, he said, on condition of not being identified.

Armed Forces Commander San Maung declared over the radio Thursday that the army would continue stern measures. He said trouble-makers had infiltrated protest marches, and "the people are now facing anarchy of the violence-makers."

But Prime Minister Tun Tin had also said Thursday that "the government will seriously consider legitimate requests of the people... in accordance with the law."

He said that as promised, the government would urgently carry out economic reforms to boost living conditions, such as privatising some sectors of the economy and permitting private foreign investment.

The radio said water supplies to Rangoon were cut for four hours Thursday after a transformer at Yegu pumping station near the Kabaaye Pagoda in the northern suburbs was put out of action by "destructive elements."



Oscar Arias Sanchez

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica said he had spoken "with my heart in my hand" in asking Cuban President Fidel Castro for help in bringing peace to Central America.

Arias, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize last year for his efforts to halt Central America's violence, met Castro for 1½ hours Wednesday.

They were among seven Latin American leaders in Quito for the inauguration of President Rodrigo Borja, a moderate leftist who pledged a non-aligned foreign policy.

Arias Thursday said he urged Castro to use his influence with Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista leaders to persuade them to keep

Arias seeks Cuban help for peace

their promises for more freedom in Nicaragua, including releasing political prisoners and lifting censorship of the news media.

Arias said at a news conference that to achieve peace in Central America, "the support and effort of many people are needed, and Fidel Castro is one of them."

He said he told Castro that Castro "had a very important role to play if we want to achieve peace in the region."

"I have spoken to him with my heart in my hand because I believe that there are 27 million human beings in Central America who desire and deserve to live in peace," Arias said.

In Latin America, the phrase "heart in hand" means to speak very sincerely, to be very candid, regardless of possible consequences.

Arias said "nothing concrete" was achieved in the meeting. He said he regretted not having more time to talk with the leader of communist Cuba and hoped to be able to meet again with him soon.

Paper shortage puts wrinkle in glasnost

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviets are caught in a paper chase brought on by Mikhail S. Gorbachev's policy of openness. They can't get their fill of glasnost-inspired writing for the same reason they can't get enough toilet paper: a paper shortage.

In a country where people read voraciously, the problem is more than just another wrinkle in daily life.

It means some people could miss vigorous debates in the state-run press about the country's history and about Gorbachev's wide-ranging social and economic reforms.

Thousands have left post offices empty-handed after trying to apply for their favourite newspaper and magazine subscriptions, and newspapers have been deluged with letters of protest.

"It's understandable that we constantly have a paper deficit, but in our time of revolutionary renewal, the thoughts and feelings by which the country is living is concentrated in the newspapers and magazines. Therefore, it wouldn't be awful to sacrifice the circulation of other publications. Society would be generously repaid," Muscovite N. Sbulgin wrote in a letter published Aug. 6 in the cultural daily Sovetskaya Kultura.

Since Gorbachev came to power in March 1985 and encouraged more open discussion of the country's problems and history, citizens have been snapping up periodicals like Ogonyok and Moscow News that are at the forefront of the new openness, or glasnost.

Such periodicals quickly sell out at newsstands, and subscriptions are hard to come by.

Last year, Soviets rejoiced when it was announced that applications for 1989 subscriptions for the state-run press would be accepted throughout 1988. In previous years, orders were taken only after Aug. 1.

But the jubilation was premature. When Jan. 1 rolled around, Soviets were told they could sign up only for newspapers and had to wait until August for magazine subscriptions. In July, the Ministry of Communications issued directive number 315, which in effect, limited the number of 1989 subscriptions to their 1988 level.

Further restrictions apply to 41 publications, including such popular sellers as Ogonyok, Soviet sport and Literaturnaya Gazeta.

There's no limit on the more conventional — some Soviets would say boring — publications like Communist, Party Life and Political Education.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Bush: U.S. should pay U.N. dues

WASHINGTON (R) — Vice President George Bush said Thursday that he believed the United States should pay any money it owes to the United Nations. "The United States, if it has a commitment, ought to keep its word," Bush told reporters in response to a question. The United States is withholding \$44 million from its current assessment. The money is being held under provisions of a 1985 law that requires that 40 per cent of the annual U.S. assessment be withheld unless President Reagan certifies that reforms are being made in the U.N. budget process and other operations.

6 leaders seek Chilean guarantee

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Six Latin American presidents appealed Thursday for guarantees that Chilean voters will be able to express their will in an upcoming referendum on the presidency. The leaders, gathered here for the inauguration of Ecuador's new Socialist President, Rodrigo Borja, said in a brief communique that the Chilean vote, scheduled for next October, "is of particular interest" for the entire Latin American region. Signing the statement were the presidents of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Ecuador.

Earthquake hits Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) — Office workers scrambled under desks as a strong earthquake struck Tokyo and surrounding areas Friday, shaking buildings and halting trains and elevators in many parts of the city. There were no immediate reports of serious damage or injuries, police said. The 2.15 p.m. (0515 GMT) earthquake registered a preliminary 5.3 on the Richter Scale, central meteorological agency officials said. An earthquake measuring five on the scale is considered "very strong." All three of the region's high-speed Shinkansen "bullet" train lines and many commuter rail lines were halted temporarily to allow workers to examine track beds for damage, officials said. Car traffic was largely unaffected by the quake.

Angolan jet shot Masire's plane

GABORONE (AP) — An Angolan jet mistook President Quett Masire's executive plane for enemy aircraft and shot it down as he flew to a summit in the Angolan capital, the president's office said Wednesday. Masire suffered lacerations to his back and another member of his party was injured when the plane was hit Sunday as it flew over Angola. The pilot managed to land the plane and Masire was treated at a hospital in Luanda. Other leaders of the front-line states held their summit to discuss proposals for an end to the Angolan war and independence for South-West Africa, also known as Namibia.

Seoul concerned over blood shortage

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's blood banks are being topped up as a precaution against a terrorist attack at the Seoul Olympic Games, health officials said Friday. The officials told reporters they were worried that with 250,000 foreign visitors at the games there might be a shortage of rare types of blood if a bomb blast caused mass casualties. The Korean National Red Cross has finalised a list of 3,000 nationals with RH negative blood — a characteristic of less than three per cent of Koreans, but up to 15 per cent of Westerners.

U.S. Senate approves Thornburgh

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard L. Thornburgh says he's eager to begin work as the United States' 76th attorney general, but is not counting on keeping the job if George Bush becomes the next American president.

"I look on this as a six-month assignment," Thornburgh said Thursday after the Senate unanimously confirmed him as successor to the controversial Edwin Meese III for the nation's top law enforcement job.

The former Republican governor of Pennsylvania said in a television interview that he'll "let the future take care of itself" even if Vice President Bush is elected.

Thornburgh, 56, already has told Senators that he's loyal to President Ronald Reagan, declaring last week, "his agenda is my agenda."

Last week, Thornburgh said that fighting the "scourge of narcotics" would be his top priority, but he also promised a vigorous battle against organised crime, public corruption and white-collar crime.

Thursday, he said "every day" of his potentially short tenure "will be important, because the process of law enforcement is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week, year-round proposition and I'm anxious and enthusiastic about getting on the job."

Thornburgh likely will be able to concentrate solely on department programmes, unlike Meese, who spent considerable time defending his personal conduct.

Meese's ethical behaviour was investigated by independent counsel James McKay, who concluded that the attorney general "probably" broke the law. Meese consistently denied that.

Buenos Aires expels South African consul

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — The foreign ministry ordered the expulsion of South African consul Dirk De Wet and three of his countrymen for violating visa conditions.

The three men — Germt Olivier, Ismail Richards and Bennet Ndazi — applied for visas to visit Argentina for talks with the consul, according to the government news agency TELAM. Instead, they participated in a public seminar organised by the consulate, the news agency said Thursday.

The topic of the seminar was not disclosed. Argentina in 1986 lowered the level of its diplomatic relations with South Africa from embassy status to a consulate because of apartheid.

By law and custom, apartheid establishes a racially segregated society in which South Africa's 26 million blacks have no vote in national affairs. The 5 million whites control the economy and maintain separate districts, schools and health services.

South Africa's foreign affairs department condemned the expulsions, describing Argentina's move as "surprising and unacceptable."

The expulsions were "a self-serving action, clearly aimed at obtaining approval in certain Third World countries," the department said Friday.

"There is a South African lobby in Argentina seeking a renewal of ties," he said.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said: "Now we'll have to wait and see what South Africa's reaction is."

Pretoria could take similar action to Argentina's and expel the Argentine consul in South Africa, he added.

A foreign ministry spokesman said the seminar broached political topics and was considered by the government "an intolerable intrusion in Argentina's foreign policy."

Aspirin can save heart attack victims

LONDON (R) — Combined use of aspirin and a clot-dissolving drug can save the lives of tens of thousands of heart attack victims each year, according to doctors who carried out a worldwide study on coronary care.

Oxford university cardiologist Peter Sleight, chairman of the study group, told reporters prompt treatment with aspirin and the drug Streptokinase after a heart attack would cut by half the number of patients who die within the first month of being stricken.

Streptokinase is widely used in hospitals to treat heart attacks and, in the United States, costs about \$200 a dose. The study said it is as effective as newer and more expensive clot-dissolving drugs.

The second international study of infarct survival (ISIS-2), published in the latest edition of the British medical journal the Lancet, was the largest of its kind ever conducted.

It involved more than 17,000 patients from 417 hospitals in 16 countries.

South Korea agrees to march with North at Seoul Olympics

SEOUL (R) — South Korea agreed Friday to march with North Korean athletes at the Olympic opening ceremony if Pyongyang reverses its decision to boycott the games.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) proposed Thursday, in another appeal to North Korea to take part in the games, that delegations from the two Koreas march side by side in a symbolic gesture.

They would be preceded by a single Olympic flag and each

would carry their own national flag.

"We wholeheartedly welcome the IOC proposal and hope it will be realised," said Kim Chong-Ha, president of South Korea's National Olympic Committee.

North Korea has said it will boycott the games because the IOC has failed to meet its demand to co-host them.

It has rejected as insufficient a compromise offer that it host all or part of five sports, including the archery and table tennis.

Discoveries encourage search for intelligent life

By Paul Rezer
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The discovery of new planets and of complex organic chemicals in comets is encouraging astronomers to intensify their search of the universe for intelligent life beyond the Earth.

"The circumstantial evidence is mounting every day" that intelligent life could have developed elsewhere in the universe, said Michael Klein, manager of a U.S. space agency research effort.

"It is encouraging," he said Monday.

Klein said discoveries announced last week that planet-like objects have been found orbiting distant stars, and that organic chemicals thought to be the precursors to life exist in comets support fundamental theories about life evolving from cosmic chemistry.

"That is the circumstantial evidence that life exists else-

where," Klein said. "We know now that the materials are there. It gives us a good feeling that we are on the right track."

He commented at the 20th assembly of the International Astronomical Union, which is meeting in Baltimore.

Klein heads a project called the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, or SETI, that is planning to mount an intensified search for radio signals from civilisations that may exist on planets orbiting distant stars.

Programmes run by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, by Harvard University, and others have listened for intelligence-directed radio signals for more than 20 years, but only a small fraction of the vast universe, and the many radio frequencies that must be monitored have actually been checked.

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which is operated by the

California Institute of Technology for NASA, has proposed to expand the effort with sophisticated new equipment that would listen to tens of millions of channels at the same time. The equipment would be monitored by a computer capable of identifying signals that could be sent by intelligent life.

Klein said the new equipment would be able to look at a 1,000 different stars that are thought to be similar to the Earth's sun, locations that experts believe hold the best chance for the evolution of life.

There also would be "whole sky survey" in many radio frequencies in which every portion of the heavens would be systematically searched.

Searches in the past "have only scratched the surface," said Klein.

The new equipment would be 10 million times more thorough than present equipment, he said, noting, "in the first few

minutes we would be able to match all of the searches that were done before."

But even with the new devices the job is immense, said Frank Drake, chairman of a SETI committee of the astronomical union and an astronomer at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

"Many people think the project should succeed in the next year or two," he said. "That's probably not going to happen. The universe is so huge and the cosmic haystack so large, it will take us decades."

Drake added: "The consequences of success are so great that it's worth dealing with the problems."

The theory behind the SETI work is that because there are billions of galaxies, each with billions of stars, the odds are good that the conditions that permitted life to evolve on Earth must exist elsewhere.

If so, then intelligent life

could have developed along the same lines as it did here on Earth. Civilisations that are equal to or more advanced than humankind would be sending out signals, just as occurs on Earth. The SETI project is looking for those signals.

Such signals may "leak out" just as do on Earth, Drake said.

"The strongest sign of our existence in the universe is the accumulation of our television signals," he said. The second most common radio signal from Earth comes from military communications.

Klein said the U.S. budget now under consideration by Congress includes a \$6 million appropriation for the enhanced SETI equipment. He said the total project would last 10 years and cost \$90 million.

If the funding is approved, the intensified search could begin in 1992, with all of the new equipment on line by 1994.

COLUMN

Prostitution ring has large clientele

SAN JOSE, California (R) — A raid on a California prostitution ring uncovered a computerised listing of clients containing more than 40,000 names, police said Wednesday. The illicit business, which was spread across six counties and employed about 70 prostitutes at a time, had been operating since the early 1970s, investigators said. They said the women charged clients between \$200 and \$275 an hour. "The figures are staggering," said prosecutor Paul Siedel. "They kept all the business information in computer files and the records are very detailed."

Grave of baby dinosaurs found

PEKING (AP) — Scientists from China and Canada said Thursday they had unearthed a mass grave of baby dinosaurs apparently buried during a Gobi desert sandstorm 75 million years ago. Dr. Philip Currie, of the Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology in Alberta, Canada, said the joint team excavated the skulls of five sheep-sized baby pincosaurus, a type of Ankylosaur or armoured dinosaur, in the wastelands of southern inner Mongolia. He said they found a sixth baby on the last day of their summer-long expedition, "and it appears likely there are a number of other specimens." One adult, which in life was "about the size of an extremely heavy bull," was also discovered nearby.

McCartney: book on Lennon trash

LONDON (AP) — Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney was quoted Thursday as saying a new book on the late John Lennon, which alleges that Lennon had a homosexual affair with the group's manager, Brian Epstein, is "a piece of trash." The London newspaper Daily Mail Tuesday began daily serialisation of excerpts from "The Lives of John Lennon" by Albert Goldman. The book, which is to be released Aug. 2 in Britain, is also being serialised in the United States. The paper quoted McCartney as saying: "With the exception of his close relatives, I knew John longer than anyone. I would have thought that once in all that time there would have been a suggestion of the homosexuality referred to by Goldman."

San Marino issues anti-AIDS stamps

SAN MARINO (AP) — In what it describes as the first initiative of its kind in the world, this tiny republic is issuing four postage stamps dedicated to the fight against AIDS. The government said Thursday the stamps, due to come out in the next few days, were prepared in conjunction with an international congress on AIDS to be held in San Marino in October. "The set carries a warning but at the same time hope," a government statement said. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is a disease in which a virus attacks the body's immune system, leaving victims susceptible to a wide variety of infections and cancers.

Politician swims 28.4 kilometres

ORANJESTAD, Aruba (AP) — Thousands of jubilant Arubans greeted a member of parliament who swam 28.4 kilometres from Venezuela to Aruba braving strong currents to raise money for a swimming pool in his hometown. Government spokesman Mike Eman said it was the first time anyone had swum the Caribbean Sea between the two countries. Roly Bisslik, 38, a lawmaker for the ruling Aruban People's Party and a swimming instructor, made the crossing Sunday in 10 hours and 28 minutes. On reaching shore, Bisslik kissed the ground and merrymakers showered him with champagne and sang the national anthem.

Murderer worked as probation officer

LOS ANGELES (R) — A convicted murderer attested 14 years after escaping from prison lived a model life and worked as a charity organiser and probation officer during his freedom, police said Tuesday. "He was married and raising a family of three children. He was living a model life," Detective John Petevich said of 37-year-old Arthur Bembury, who was arrested Monday. Bembury was sentenced in 1971 to life imprisonment in Massachusetts for shooting the mother of a girl he was dating. Petevich said. He was allowed a week-end leave from prison three years later and never went back.